
Higher Education Committee

HB 1856

Brief Description: Regarding child care grants for students at institutions of higher education.

Sponsors: Representatives Roberts, Jarrett, Wallace, Upthegrove, Chase, Barlow, Hasegawa, Lovick, Kenney, Kessler, Kagi, Lantz and Simpson.

Brief Summary of Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Replaces a child care grant program available on a competitive basis with a program that awards matching grants to state institutions of higher education.

Hearing Date: 2/22/07

Staff: Jennifer Thornton (786-7111).

Background:

The Institutional Child Care Grant program was established in 1999 to promote high-quality, accessible, and affordable child care for students attending the state's public four-year colleges and universities. During the 2005-07 biennium, the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) awarded grants totaling \$150,000, to the following public colleges and universities: \$66,000 to Washington State University for affordable evening child care, increased access to both day and evening child care programs for infants and toddlers, and increased efficiency and innovation at the campus child care center; \$35,000 to Western Washington University to provide more affordable child care for low-income families, reduce the annual increase in parent fees, produce an outcome-based learning model, and create a daycare newsletter; \$23,636 to Central Washington University to support a portion of the costs associated with hiring an early childhood education specialist and maintaining infant-toddler child care services; and \$25,364 to The Evergreen State College to maintain a sliding fee structure for low-income student parents, train two to three staff members to become Standardized Testing and Reporting trainers, and implement a weekend Native American child care program. The grants do not provide direct child care funding to students.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) administers the Institutional Child Care Grant program for the community and technical colleges. Grants of up to \$15,000 have been awarded to Big Bend Community College, Highline Community College, Olympic College, and Whatcom Community College.

Summary of Bill:

A competitive grant program is replaced with a program through which the HECB and the SBCTC will award child care grants to state institutions of higher education in an amount matching the amount that the institution's student government association contributes for child care. The funds may only be used for the direct costs of providing child care for the children of students.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 21, 2007.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.